We Claim:

1. A controlled release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) at least one pharmaceutically active substance having a water contact angle (θ) such that cos θ is between +0.9848 and -0.9848

(b) a first intelligent polymer component; and

(c) a second intelligent polymer component having opposite wettability characteristics to said first intelligent polymer component, the first and second polymer components being present in a ratio in the range of about 1:100 to about 100:1 by weight, the polymer components being effective for controlled release of said pharmaceutically active substance from said composition.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the first intelligent polymer component is more hydrophobic than the second intelligent polymer component.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the first intelligent polymer component is present in an amount not less than 5% by weight.

4. The composition of any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the first intelligent polymer component is ethylcellulose and the second intelligent polymer component is a mixture of hydroxyethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose.

5. The composition of any of claims 1 to 4 further comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the excipient comprises 0.25% to 5% by weight of the composition.

7. The composition of claim 4, wherein the at least one excipient is silicon dioxide.

8. The composition of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said composition further comprises 0.5% to 15% by weight of at least one surface active agent.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein said surface active agent is sodium lauryl sulfate.

10. The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises 10% to 70% by weight channeling agents.

Article 34

11. The composition of claim 10, wherein said channeling agent is anhydrous lactose.

12. The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises 5% to 30% compression enhancer.

13. The composition of claim 10, wherein said compression enhancer is microcrystalline cellulose.

14. A controlled release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) from about 0.5% to about 70% by weight of a pharmaceutically active substance having a water contact angle (θ) such that cos θ is between +0.9848 and -0.9848;

(b) not less than about 5% by weight ethylcellulose;

(c) about 1:100 to 100:1 hydroxycellulose and hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose by weight;

(d) about 0.25% to 5% excipients; and

(e) about 0.5% to 15% surface active agents.

15. The composition of claim 14, wherein said composition additionally comprises

- about 10% to 70% channeling agents; and
- about 5% to 30% compression enhancers.

16. The composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, made in the form of a compressed tablet.

17. The tableted composition of claim 16, wherein said tableted composition has a anionic copolymer coating.

18. The tableted composition of claim 17, wherein said copolymer coating comprises methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate, from about 0% to 25% plasticizer, from about 0% to 25% pigment, from about 0% to 30% glidant and from about 0% to 30% lubricant.

19. A controlled release composition, the composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutically active ingredient having a water contact angle (θ) such that cos θ is between +0.9848 and -0.9848; two groups of intelligent polymers having opposing wettability characteristics, one group demonstrating a stronger tendency towards hydrophobicity and present in an amount not less than 5% wt/wt and the other group having a

AMENDED SHEET

stronger tendency towards hydrophilicity and present in the ratio of about 1:100 and 100:1 by weight, the polymers being ethylcellulose (EC) as a more strongly hydrophobic and hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC) and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC) as more strongly hydrophilic, about 0.25% to 5% silicon dioxide; and about 0.5% to 15% sodium lauryl sulfate.

20. The composition of claim 19, wherein said composition additionally comprises about 10% to 70% anhydrous lactose and about 5% to 30% microcrystalline cellulose.

21. The composition of claim 18 or 20, wherein said composition is provided as a tablet and has a coating composition comprising anionic copolymers sufficient to obtain about 0.5 to 15 mg per cm^2 of tablet.

22. The composition of claim 21, wherein said coating composition additionally comprises from about 0 to 25% plasticizer, about 0 to 25% pigment, about 0 to 30% and about 0 to 30% lubricant.

23. A process for the manufacture of a sustained release composition of pharmaceutically active substance, said process comprising:

(a) admixing a pharmaceutically active substance having a water contact angle (θ) such that cos θ is between +0.9848 and -0.9848:

(b) blending the pharmaceutically active ingredient with about 5 to 25% hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, about 1 to 25% hydroxyethylcellulose, about 0.25% to 5% suitable pharmaceutical excipients, about 0.5% to 15% suitable surface active agents, and about 10% to 70% chanelling agents in a high shear mixer until a homogeneous mixture is obtained;

(c) granulating the homogeneous blend with isopropyl alcohol (99%) in a planetary or high shear mixer;

(d) drying the wet granules to a loss on drying of about <3% and organic volatile impurities of isopropyl alcohol about <15000 ppm;

(e) milling the dry granules to about <1500 microns;

(f) adding and blending about 5% to 70% of ethylcellulose having 30-60% ethoxyl content and a vicosity of 60- 100 cps to the dry milled granules until a homogeneous blend is obtained;

AMENDED SHEET

(g) adding and intimately mixing a lubricant, preferably magnesium stearate and optionally a glidant preferably talc and optionally a compression enhancer;

(h) compressing the lubricated granules into tablets having a hardness of 5-30 Strong Cobb units and a moisture content of about <5% with a rotary tablet press; and

(i) optionally encasing the matrix tablet in a GIT "stealth" encasement or a pharmaceutically acceptable film coat.

24. The process according to claim 23, wherein said "stealth" encasement comprises anionic copolymer(s) of methacrylic acid and methyl methacrylate and one or more of the following, plasticiser (about 0-25%), titanium dioxide (about 0-25%), pigment (about 0-25%), glidant (about 0-30%), and lubricant (about 0-30%).

25. A process for preparing a "stealth" encasement , said process comprising preparing a first solution of methacrylic acid copolymer type A and/or type B in ethanol, preparing a second solution of PEG 600 in water, adding talc, pigment and titanium dioxide to the first solution and then incorporating the second solution and mixing vigorously under high shear mixing conditions.

26. The composition of claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutically active substance is nifedipine having a specific surface area of <0.5 M^2/gram or >6 m^2/gram.

27. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is provided as a tablet which demonstrates the following cumulative percent release dissolution criteria using a pH gradient method of dissolution; 0-40% released in 1 hour in dissolution media of pH 1.50, 0-50% released in 2 hours in dissolution media of pH 4.5, 5-70% released in 2 hours in dissolution media of pH 6.5, 20-100% released in 15 hours in dissolution media of pH 7.5.

28. The composition of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically active substance is selected from the group consisting of glipizide, diltiazem hydrochloride, bupropion, buspirone hydrochloride, Tramadol hydrochloride and verapamil HCl.

29. The composition of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically active substance is selected from the group consisting of nicardipine, felodipine, captopril, naproxen, diclofenac, terfenadine, pentoxifylline, fenofibrate, glipizide, buspirone, cisapride, verapamil, diltiazem, aciclovir, zidovudine, pilocarpine, moclobemide, lamotrigine, risperidon , clonazepam, nefazodone, lovastatin, simvastatin, pravachol, ketorolac,

hydromorphone, morphine, ticlopidine, seligiline, venlafaxine, alprazolam, carbamazepine, divalproex and phenytoin.